

REMARKS

Applicants believe that the amendment of the abstract, specification, deletion of claims 28 and 29 and the amendment of claims 20, 21, 22, 23 and 27 overcome all rejections present in the Office Action dated September 14, 1998 for the above-referenced application. Applicants request that the rejection of the remaining claims be reconsidered and the claims as amended allowed.

The deletion of claims 28 and 29 is not an admission that these claims are unpatentable. They have been deleted for the sole purpose of expediting prosecution of the case. Applicants reserve the right to file a continuing application including these claims.

If anything has been overlooked, the Examiner is requested to call the attorney of record to resolve any inadvertently overlooked issues.

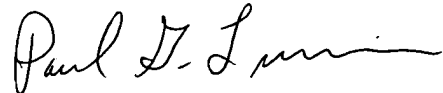
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants submit the enclosed references which they believe may be material to the examination of the present application and with respect to which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.56.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97, the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been conducted, nor shall it be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be material to patentability as defined by 37 C.F.R. §1.56(b).

The references are listed in PTO form 1449 which is in accordance with the requirements of M.P.E.P. 609. Applicants believe that their invention as claimed is patentable over the cited references. It is respectfully requested that these references be considered by the Patent and Trademark Office in its examination of the above-identified application and be made of record therein.

Respectfully submitted;



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING [37 CFR 1.8(a)]

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all items mentioned herein are being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on January 28, 1999

Signature



Paul G. Lunn